



Education Update Fall 2009

Bi-Annual Newsletter of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Education Branch

Commemoration of John Brown's 1859 Raid on Harpers Ferry

In October of 1859 John Brown, a white abolitionist, enacted a daring plan to put an end to slavery. He planned and executed a raid on the federal armory and arsenal in Harpers Ferry, VA. Although his plan did not go as imagined, and he was not able to lead the slave revolt and his band were killed or captured, tried, and hanged, he changed the course of history. The events he put into motion had a lasting impact on the debate over slavery; a debate that couldn't be pushed aside any longer. Many historians argue that the events that transpired here in Harpers Ferry marked the beginning of the Civil War.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of John Brown's Raid, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has put together a lineup of special events and programs for the whole family. Events are planned for October 16-18, 2009.

Highlights for youth and family visitors include the Creative Design Contest Exhibition, performances by students from C.W. Shipley Elementary School, John Brown's Body preformed by Jefferson High School, a public debate hosted by Shepherd University Debate Club, Anansi the Spider and the Middle Passage preformed by Harpers Ferry Middle School and a choir performance by Sherando High School students.

Young visitors will enjoy watching the puppet show *Matilda's Incredible Time Travel*, building John Brown's Fort in front of backdrops (painted by Martinsburg High School Students) of the different locations it has been, creating in make-and-take projects, learning about historical figures in history who have used disguises and try to disguise themselves, and participating in the Lifeways program where they play period

games, learn how to milk a cow, and learn what school was like.

On Saturday, visitors can be a newscaster reporting "On the Scene" of the John Brown Raid as they participate in our interactive telecast. On Sunday, kids ages 8-13 can participate in a book writing and illustration workshop with children's author and illustrator, John Hendrix.

For a complete schedule of events, visit: www.nps.gov/hafe.

The Creative Design Contest is open to all students in grades K-12. Categories include Posters, Sculpture, and Prose/Poetry. To receive a complete set of rules, please e-mail Amber_Kraft@nps.gov. All entries must be received no later than 4 pm on October 9, 2009.

Education Branch Receive Regional and National Recognition



The education branch at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has received both regional and national recognition for outstanding service!

The Of the Student, By the Student, For the Student service learning project and partnership with Harpers Ferry Middle School and Journey

Through Hallowed Ground has been a big success! This program has gained attention by Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and received their Award for Federal Preserve America Accomplishment.

Likewise, Dennis Frye, Chief of Interpretation and Education, received the National Capital Region's Freeman Tilden Award for his vision and leadership on the project. He now goes on to compete for the National Freeman

Tilden Award.

Catherine Bragaw, Education Program Manager, received the regional Sustained Interpretive Services Award for crafting the education branch into what it is today and building the program to serve more than 60,000 student visitors annually.

Lastly, the education branch staff was an Interpretive Teamwork nominee for their Immersion into History programs.

A Summary of Our 2009 Summer Season

Fall is here and we are looking forward to a busy school year as school groups once again fill the streets of Harpers Ferry. You might not know it, but our summers are very busy with youth visitors. Twice a week, from June until mid-August, almost 300 students from across the nation visited Harpers Ferry to explore the history of John Brown, the Civil War, and leadership.

We also offered family and youth programs four times a day on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. These programs included morning and afternoon hikes, a program entitled Hands on History, and a program about 19th century life called Lifeways. In each of these programs young visitors were able to engage with park rangers, volunteers, and interns to discover the importance of Harpers Ferry and the places protected by the National Park Service.

Without a wonderful summer staff, consisting of college interns, Youth Conservation Corps students, Youth Partnership Program students, and seasonal staff, these leadership and family/youth programs would not have been successful. Thank you to all who continue to further the NPS mission by serving our youth visitors.

If you know someone interested in volunteering or interning with the education branch please have them contact Amber Kraft by calling 304-535-6293 or email Amber_Kraft@nps.gov.

Special Opportunities for Local School Partners

During the winter months, Harpers Ferry National Historic Park is offering several learning opportunities to schools in Berkeley and Jefferson County, WV; Washington and Frederick County, Maryland and Loudon and Clark Counties in Virginia. These activities are great fun and offer a “field study” opportunity which does not require bus transportation – we bring the program to you!

2nd Grade

Life ways – Learn to milk Bessie, do a Virginia reel, play graces, go to a Blab School and make butter. Students’ record in marbled journals what their day as a kid from a period long ago was like. Each program is 1.5 hours. Minimum requirement – 2 class sign up.



4th Grade

Journey to Freedom – Students follow footprints to find treasure boxes. What do the things inside the trunk tell us about the person who owned them and what did they do during their lives to make Freedom happen? This program follows the journey of freedom from the early 1800’s to the 20th century. Each program is 1.5 hours. Minimum requirement – 2 class sign up.

5th Grade

Civil War Trunk – Annie was a Virginian and Charlie was from Massachusetts. What was it like for them as young people living in a town torn by war and right on the border? We bring the trunk for the first lesson and then you take it from there using our lessons or designing your own. The trunk is filled with personal effects typical of the time period. Each class can reserve the trunk for one week at a time. The school is responsible for returning the trunk at the end of the reservation period.



Libraries

Display life size cardboard figures in your Resource center. Fredrick Douglass, John Brown, Sarah Jane Foster and Dr. W.E.B DuBois each have a small wayside that tells who they are. Each school can reserve these figures for up to 2 weeks.

Just call the park at 304-535-6456 to reserve your program. Please realize that programming is limited and we will take reservations on a first come first serve basis. We appreciate your understanding!

Partners in Education: HFMS, JTHG and HAFE

Presents come in many packages. This year in December we received a very special one and it came in the form of a phone call. Would the park be interested in working on a special service learning project? Did we have a local school that might be interested in a partnership? This was the beginning of what became a fantastic experience in creating, sharing, and becoming.

The project goal was to create six student vodcasts to tell the story of John Brown. Our partners were Harpers Ferry Middle School (HFMS) and the Journey Through Hallowed Ground (JTHG) Partnership.

We began in November with the entire student body coming on three separate days to engage in an immersive history lesson. Who was John Brown? What was he trying to do? Was he right? Was he wrong?



From this initiation students either were selected by teachers or self-selected themselves to be involved. The entire student body chose topics and then the core project group of 70 students made the final decision on topics.

The students studied the stories, did the historical research, inventoried their personal strengths, designed and made costumes, wrote scripts, rehearsed parts, filmed and directed, acted, edited, figured out video editing software, became proficient on Apple computers, learned to love history, analyzed primary documents and photos, wrote press releases, made collaboration and teamwork

successful, practiced leadership, discovered about copyright laws, and worked very, very hard. Above all, they made a lasting contribution as American citizens and made us better citizens in the process!

Check it out at www.nps.gov/hafe/photosmultimedia/ofbyforthestudent.htm In August, the school, the park, and our partners were honored by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for a job well done! We are reminded once again that we have more power together and how much we appreciate our many partners in Education!



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Education Update is the biannual newsletter of the Harpers Ferry NHP Education Branch. The Education Branch at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park offers education programs geared toward wide and varied audiences. Programs connect participants of all ages to the resources and stories of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

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www.nps.gov/hafe

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

New Reservation System Now Online

We are delighted to report that the online education reservation system is up and running on our website! It is located at <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/forteachers/education-reservations.htm> Simply click "online education reservation system" and you are taken to a page where you select the month and day you would like to visit. Fill in all of the information, just as you would with the paper forms, submit, and print or save the final page for your records. We will notify you with a confirmation of your visit date and program information once you are added to our schedule. We hope this new reservation system will save you time as you plan your visit. If you have questions about the online reservation system, please contact us at HAFE_Education@nps.gov. Also check out the [Education & Fees Frequently Asked Questions](#) page for further information about arranging a visit to Harpers Ferry for your student, youth, or teacher group.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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2009 Summer Institutes for Teachers

This summer educators took advantage of the opportunity to participate in three teacher institutes offered through the education branch at Harpers Ferry NHP. From June 15-18, educators participated in a Bridging the Watershed Institute and learned about watersheds and participated in field study programs that their students will use in National Parks to test the health of our rivers and streams.

From June 21-26, teachers participated in a week long summer institute for teachers focusing on John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry. These teachers learned to use Audacity software to create audio podcasts that will be available on the park's website. The use of Audacity is one

example of how technology can be used in the classroom and promotes 21st century learning strategies.

From July 6- August 31, Harpers Ferry partnered with American Public University System to offer an eight week online class focusing on John Brown with an on-site workshop July 12-14.

By all accounts, all three learning opportunities were a success. Educators learned new techniques and strategies for innovative teaching.

Spread the Word

Tell all the teachers you know about the fun and exciting programs being offered by the Education Staff at Harpers Ferry NHP!

